(c) and (d) The principal manufacturing unit of sodium s-tibo gluconate drug have been advised to increase the production of this drug for treatment of Kala-Azar.

Promotion of Health

3078. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in developed countries, more attention is being given to promotion of health than to medical services;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce a nutrition programme as done by the Tamil Nadu Government in the nutritive noon meal scheme and the free nutritive weaning food scheme so that health care is covered up to the poor people to an extent; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The Government is aware that prevention of diseases and promotion of health deserve serious attention.

(b) and (c) There is at present no concrete proposal to implement a Mid-day Meal Programme for elementary school children throughout the country. However, to improve average consumption of nutrients in the vulnerable groups, Government of India have initiated a number of programmes:

(i) Supplementary feeding programme under the scheme of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is implemented to fill the critical calorie gap in pre-school children and women during pregnancy and lactation.

(ii) Vitamin A distribution programme to prevent Vitamin 'A' deficiency in pre-school children (1-5 years).

(iii) Distribution of Iron and Folic Acid Tablets programmes (Anaemia, Prophylaxis programme):— distribution of Iron and Folic Acid Tablets to pregnant and lactating women and children upto 10 years and to family planning acceptors.

Thalassemia genes

3079. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 25 million of healthy carriers of thalassemia gene;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there every year nearly 9,000 children are born with thalassemia major and die mostly undiagnosed due to poor or non-availability of treatment facilities;

(c) what steps are being taken to create awareness about this dreaded disease and screening of high risk groups to prevent birth of thalassemia major children;

(d) whether Government are aware that the part of the treatment is blood transfusion and whether any steps are being taken to strengthen the blood banks for this purpose; and

(e) whether any drugs are available in the country; if not, whether any steps have been taken to import such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) A number of studies on the prevalence of thalassemis in various

parts of India carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has shown varying frequency of the B-thalassemia in different population groups. Taking into account the prevalence estimates of 2-3 per cent of gene among general population, the upper limit of number of people in India carrying the B-thalassemia gene can be estimated roughly at about 25 million.

(b) Considering the gene frequency of 2-3 per cent in general population, it has been estimated that approximately 6,000 new cases of Thalassemia are borne each year. It is possible that some such cases are not reported.

(c) The Institute of Immunohaematology, (IIH), Bombay, under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has been organising periodic camps for public education and screening. The following are the preventive measures:—

1. Education of the Medical fraternity as well as the general public.

2. Population Screening.

3. Genetic counselling.

4. Prenatal diagnosis and

5. Marriage counselling in the high risk groups. The Indian Council of Medical Research is also supporting a project at the University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, to study the gene frequency and improve prenatal diagnosis to cut down the frequency and thereby decrease the incidence of the disease.

(d) Yes, Sir. A scheme on prevention of infection and strengthening of blood banking system is under-way for general upgrading the blood transfustion services.

(e) At present Desferal injection is being marketed in India for treatment of Thalassemia. This drug is imported and marketed by M|s. Ciba.

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम

3080. **श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल :** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने आगामी वित्त वर्ष में कुछ राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम चलाने का निर्णय लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) प्रत्येक कार्यक्रम के लिए कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती डी० के० तारादेवी सिद्धार्थ) : (क) से (ग) स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण क्षेत्र में निम्नलिखित मुख्य राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम आते हैं, जिन्हें 1992-93 में जारी रखा जाएगा और जिन पर होने वाला परिव्यय उनके सामने दिया गया है :—

(करोड़ रुपये)

कार्यक्रम का नाम	1992–93 के लिये स्वीकृत परिव्यय
1. राष्ट्रीय मलेरिया उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम	50.00
2. राष्ट्रीय कुष्ठरोग उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम	24.00
3. राष्ट्रीय क्षयरोग नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम	14.50
4. राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिहीनता नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम	13.50